

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are currently pending and have been subject to restriction. The Examiner asserts that the claims are drawn to three patentably distinct inventions as follows:

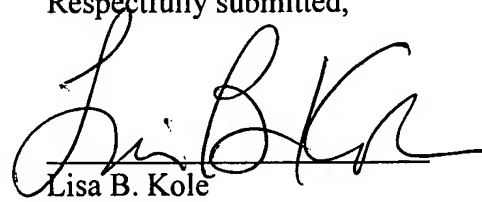
- Group I. Claims 1-23, drawn to a method for protecting against cataract development in a subject during a vitreous replacement, comprising using a vitreous replacement solution having a low oxygen concentration, classified in class 514, subclass 2;
- Group II: Claim 24-29, drawn to the vitreous replacement solution during a vitrectomy, classified in class 514, subclass 2; and
- Group III: Claim 30, drawn to a method for protecting against cataract development, comprising reducing oxygen concentration in the vitreous of a subject, classified in class 514, subclass 2.

Applicant elects to prosecute Group I, Claims 1-23, drawn to a method for protecting against cataract development in a subject during a vitreous replacement, comprising using a vitreous replacement solution having a low oxygen concentration, classified in class 514, subclass 2. This election is made without prejudice to the prosecution of non-elected groups in other patent applications.

Entry of the foregoing remarks into the file of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. An early allowance is earnestly sought. If any additional fee is due, or if any overpayment has been made, in connection with the filing of this response, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any such fee or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 02-4377. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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Enclosures